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MONSTER HUNTERS
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PUBLICATIONS

THE NAMES "FRANKENSTEIN" AND "JEKYLL" ATTEST TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHALLENGING THE FORBIDDEN SECRETS OF LIFE, DEATH AND THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE MIND TO REVEAL THEMSELVES! EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH MUST BENEFIT MANKIND IMMEDIATELY... OR IT IS A DESPICABLE CRIME AGAINST GOD AND HUMANITY! IF SCIENCE RUNS AMUCK, THE RESEARCHER IS CURSED TO ETERNAL INFAMY! WHAT CHOICES DO SCIENTISTS HAVE...

THE BEAST OR THE BURDEN!

...THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT! EVER SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED OF PARALYSIS, I'VE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO ARTIFICIALLY IMPROVING THE HUMAN ANATOMY... AND AT LAST I'M MAKING PROGRESS! IT HAS BEEN A LONG, PAINSTAKING JOB, HANS ...YOU MUST BE TIRED OF IT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE, FATHER! SOON WE'LL FIND ALL THE ANSWERS WE'RE LOOKING FOR! ...I KNOW WE WILL!

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IT'S LATE... I'M VERY TIRED! I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, SON... WE'RE TAKING DANGEROUS CHANCES EXPERIMENTING ON HUMAN GUINEA PIGS! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW... A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY DEATH ON THE GALLOWS!

DR. VAN STROM'S FREE CLINIC LOCATED IN THE RIVERSIDE SLUM DISTRICT AMPLY PROVIDED HIM WITH THE HUMAN BODIES HE NEEDED FOR SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION..

...DISEASE LURKED IN EVERY GARBAGE-FILLED CORNER OF THE CHEAP TENEMENTS! DEATH WAS NO STRANGER TO THE INHABITANTS! VAN STROM SAVED MANY WHO SHOULD HAVE DIED! THOSE WHO DID DIE, HE MADE USE OF... SO, THEIR DEATH WOULD NOT BE IN VAIN!

...SOMETIMES I WONDER ...IF WHAT WE'RE DOING IS RIGHT? I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT THE POLICE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF US! ...IT FRIGHTENS ME! SUPPOSE THEY'RE WATCHING THE CLINIC AND NOTICE...PATIENTS WHO DIE IN OUR WARD ARE NEVER REMOVED!

LET THEM WATCH! LET THEM NOTICE! YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR OWN NOTORIETY... YOU ARE WELL RESPECTED... FAMOUS! WHO WOULD DARE LEAD YOU UP THE THIRTEEN STEPS OF THE GALLOWS? FATHER, YOU ARE A GREAT MAN! THE DEAD WE EXPERIMENT ON ARE SHIFTLESS VAGABONDS!

IT'S TRUE THE PEOPLE LOVE ME... BUT THE HUMAN MIND IS A DANGEROUS ENEMY! ...IT CAN TURN ON YOU WITH THE BLOODLUST OF A HUNGRY TIGER! IF THE STREET POPULACE KNEW WHAT WE DO HERE... THEY MIGHT BURN THE CLINIC AND HANG US FROM A BELL TOWER! THIS IS THE 18TH CENTURY... NOT THE 20TH! PEOPLE STILL FEAR GHOULS AND MONSTERS OF THE NIGHT! WE MUST BE CAREFUL! I'M GOING TO SUPPER NOW... BOLT THE DOOR AFTER I LEAVE!

YES, FATHER!

MONSTER HUNTERS Vol. 2, No. 6, July, 1976.
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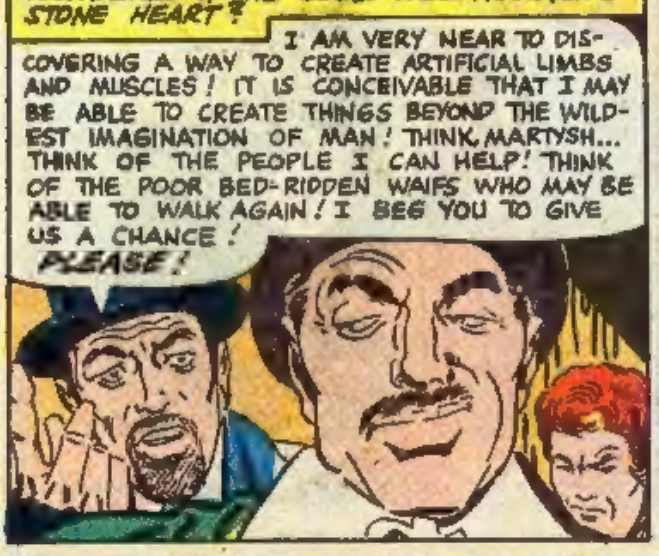
A MrBC Scan!

YES, SIR. GOOD NIGHT, DR. VAN STROM. SEE YOU TOMORROW...
GOOD NIGHT, SIR! GOD BLESS YOU!
GOOD NIGHT! BE SURE TO CHECK THE CHILD IN BED #10 ...AS WELL AS THE WOMAN IN BED #22...
...A VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS STARTLED THE GOOD DOCTOR!...
YOU KEEP LATE HOURS, VAN STROM! I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME! WERE YOU CARING FOR A SICK PATIENT?...OR EXPERIMENTING IN YOUR SECRET LABORATORY?!
W...WHO? WHERE ARE YOU?...I-I CAN'T SEE YOU! W-WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS... HOW I SPEND MY TIME?
I'M HERE! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE VOICE OF YOUR BOYHOOD RIVAL! DON'T YOU RECALL THE CONTESTS WE HAD TO SEE WHO WAS THE BETTER MAN? HAS FAME CLOUDED YOUR MEMORY? STARE AT MY FACE! I, TOO, AM FAMOUS IN MY CHOSEN PROFESSION... THOUGH I'M NOT AS WELL LOVED AS YOU! MY PATIENTS DON'T PRAISE ME... THEY CURSE ME FOR BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE!
MARTYSH! CLAUDE MARTYSH! POLICE INSPECTOR CLAUDE MARTYSH... A-ARE YOU HERE TO REMINISCE ABOUT OUR PASTS? OR IS THIS AN OFFICIAL VISIT?
THE FACE!...YES! VAN STROM REMEMBERED IT! AS YOUNGSTERS THE TWO MEN HAD BEEN FIERCE COMPETITORS! IN THEIR MANY CONTESTS, VAN STROM ALWAYS EMERGED THE VICTOR! THIS TIME, PERHAPS.. THE OUTCOME WOULD BE DIFFERENT!
I'M HERE ON OFFICIAL POLICE BUSINESS! I'M INVESTIGATING RUMORS OF STRANGE, ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTS! SHOW ME YOUR LABORATORY... OR I'LL FIND MY OWN WAY!
WAIT! COME BACK TOMORROW!
CLAUDE MARTYSH WAS JEALOUS OF HENRY VAN STROM! HENRY HAD ALL THE THINGS CLAUDE WANTED... WEALTH... POWER... RESPECT! MARTYSH WAS A BRUTAL POLICEMAN... ONE WHO ALWAYS GOT HIS MAN! HE HOPED TO EVEN AN OLD SCORE WITH HENRY BY ADDING THE NAME OF VAN STROM TO HIS LONG LIST OF ARREST RECORDS!
THIS IS IT! LOCKED! I'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT DOWN.
WAIT! DON'T DO IT! I BEG YOU... MARTYSH!
THE TRAINED INVESTIGATOR EASILY FOUND HIS WAY TO THE PRIVATE LABORATORY...

YOU'VE CAUGHT ME! I'M GUILTY! TAKE ME AWAY!
YOU'RE ONLY A BOY! I KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE! WE'LL HEAR WHAT THE MOB SAYS ABOUT THE "GOOD DOCTOR" WHEN THEY FIND OUT THE CRIME HE'S GUILTY OF! YOU ARE BOTH MY PRISONERS!
PLEASE, MARTYSH... LET THE BOY GO! WE ARE SCIENTISTS HOPING TO HELP MANKIND... NOT DESTROY IT!

VAN STROM KNEW HE WAS PLEADING FOR HIS SON'S LIFE... AS WELL AS HIS OWN! HE WONDERED IF HE COULD MELT MARTYSH'S STONE HEART?


I AM VERY NEAR TO DISCOVERING A WAY TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND MUSCLES! IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO CREATE THINGS BEYOND THE WILDEST IMAGINATION OF MAN! THINK, MARTYSH... THINK OF THE PEOPLE I CAN HELP! THINK OF THE POOR BED-RIDDEN WAIFS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN! I BEG YOU TO GIVE US A CHANCE! PLEASE!

MARTYSH WAS NOT A SYMPATHETIC MAN! BUT HE WAS EGOTISTICAL!! HE GLOATED OVER HIS TRIUMPH! HE'D BEATEN HENRY STROM AT LAST!

HA! HA! HA! THE GREAT DR. VAN STROM BEGS LOWLY POLICE INSPECTOR MARTYSH FOR MERCY? ...A TOUCHING SCENE INDEED! I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS A BETTER MAN! ...I'LL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE YOU PLEAD FOR...

I WON'T ARREST YOU THIS TIME! BUT NO MORE EXPERIMENTS! IF THERE ARE... I'LL EXPOSE YOU! REMEMBER, YOU OWE ME YOUR LIVES! REMEMBER, I'LL BE WATCHING YOU FROM NOW ON!!!

MARTYSH WAS NO FOOL! HE KNEW IT WOULD BE THE DOCTOR'S WORD AGAINST HIS OWN... THE DOCTOR WAS WELL LOVED... MARTYSH WAS HATED! THE INSPECTOR KNEW VAN STROM WOULDN'T STOP EXPERIMENTING. HE WOULD RETURN WITH A WITNESS AND CATCH HIS VICTIM IN THE ACT!

B-BUT, FATHER ...WE CAN'T STOP NOW! WE'RE SO CLOSE TO...
QUIET, HANS! LET MARTYSH ENJOY HIS COUP! I KNOW HE WILL BE BACK! HE AND I BOTH KNOW WE CANNOT DISCONTINUE OUR EXPERIMENTS WE MUST WORK QUICKLY!

VAN STROM KNEW THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE! HE KNEW THE INSPECTOR WOULD WATCH HIS EVERY MOVEMENT, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO POUNCE UPON HIM LIKE A JACKEL AT A DYING ANIMAL'S THROAT! HE HAD TO INCREASE THE RATE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS!

IVAN STROM AND HIS SON WORKED DAY AND NIGHT FOR A WEEK! THEY NEVER LEFT THE LABORATORY... MARTYSH WATCHED, WAITED AND WONDERED WHAT THEY WERE DOING! IT WAS A BATTLE OF WITS!...A GAME OF NERVES.
SO THEY DARE DEFY ME, DO THEY? THIS GAME WILL END WITH THEIR NECKS IN A NOOSE! THEY CANNOT SAY I DIDN'T GIVE THEM THEIR CHANCE TO REFORM! THE PUBLIC WILL NEVER ACCEPT THEIR EXCUSES THIS TIME! GET READY, MEN! WE'RE GOING IN!
'THIS TIME IT'S UNLOCKED! THEY ARE NOT ONLY CRIMINALS BUT FOOLS ALSO!
MARTYSH WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD FIND THEM AT THEIR FIENDISH, UNGODLY WORK...
HE WAS CERTAIN... BUT MISTAKEN! HE FOUND A BOY STIRRING HARMLESS CHEMICALS...
HE IS NOT HERE! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
WHERE IS YOUR FATHER? I KNOW HE HASN'T LEFT THE LAB! I'VE BEEN WATCHING! WHERE IS HE HIDING? I KNOW YOU ARE EXPERIMENTING ON CORPSES!
EEEEKK! HELP!!
QUICKLY! INTO THE HALLWAY!
MARTYSH'S INTERROGATION WAS CUT SHORT! HIS QUESTIONS WOULD REMAIN UNANSWERED FOR NOW!!!
A-A MONSTER! A B-BEAST! IT KNOCKED ME DOWN AND RAN OUT THE DOOR...
GOD! THERE IT IS!
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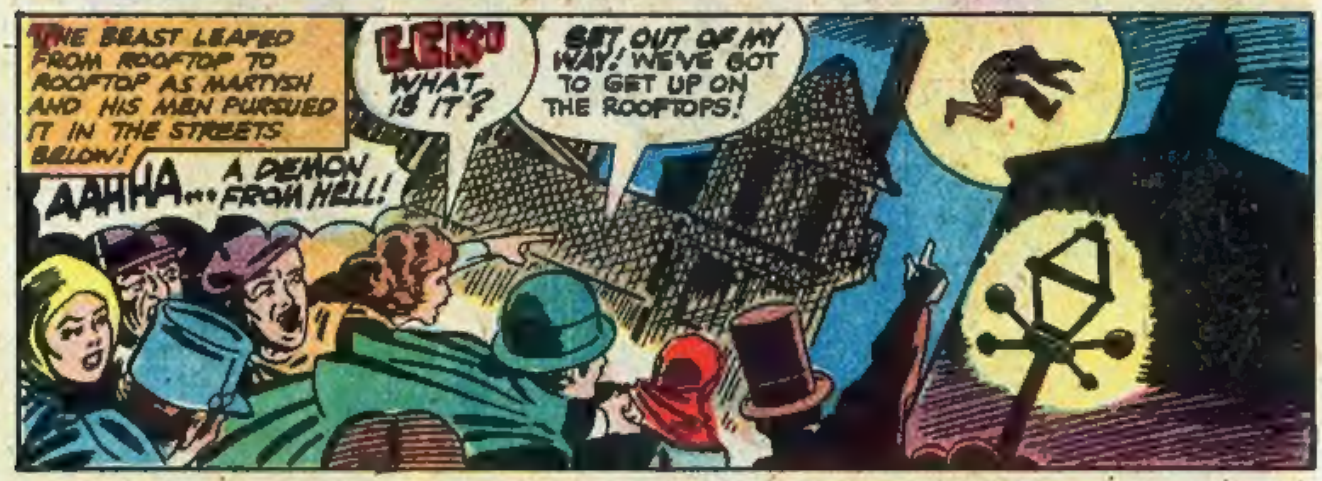
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT WE MUST KILL IT BEFORE IT HARMS ANYONE!


THE BEAST LEAPED FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP AS MARTYSH AND HIS MEN PURSUED IT IN THE STREETS BELOW!
AAHHA... A DEMON FROM HELL!
LEN! WHAT IS IT?
GET OUT OF MY WAY! WE'VE GOT TO GET UP ON THE ROOFTOPS!

THE BEAST WAS HIDEOUS TO BEHOLD BUT IT DIDN'T APPEAR DANGEROUS! IT SEEMED CONTENT TO LEAD THE POLICE ON A MERRY CHASE AWAY FROM THE CLINIC!
GYNK...SNORT! SNORT! GYNK!

WHEN THE POLICE FINALLY REACHED THE ROOF, THE CREATURE HAD DISAPPEARED...
GONE! VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! IT WILL BE BACK...AND NEXT TIME I'LL BE WAITING FOR IT! NO ONE ESCAPES CLAUDE MARTYSH...MAN OR BEAST FROM HELL! NO ONE ESCAPES ME!

CLAUDE MARTYSH HUNTED THE SHADOWY BACK ALLEYS EACH NIGHT... THE BEAST FINALLY RETURNED! THE BEAST ROUSTED A SLEEPING DRUNK... AND THE DRUNK LED CLAUDE TO THE BEAST!
HELP! POLICE! POLICE!

CLAUDE ARRIVED QUICKLY AND FIRED AT THE CREATURE... BUT MISSED!
AGAIN THE BEAST ELUDES ME! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WERE AN INTELLIGENT BEING!

THE BEAST TOOK PRIORITY OVER VAN STROM... IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, A PATTERN WAS ESTABLISHED... THE CREATURE CONTINUED TO HARASS THE PUBLIC... MARTYSH CONTINUED TO PURSUE THE BEAST... THE MONSTER CONTINUED TO ESCAPE THE INSPECTOR.
PUFF! PUFF! THE MONSTER IS MAKING A FOOL OF ME! I'M A LAUGHING STOCK! IT CONTINUALLY GETS AWAY, ALMOST AS IF LEADING ME ON! HEY! I AM A FOOL! VAN STROM... OF COURSE!

WHERE IS HENRY VAN STROM? TELL ME!
THE DOCTOR HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR WEEKS. THE CLINIC IS CLOSED! NO ONE COMES HERE ANYMORE!
I'LL HAVE A LOOK INSIDE ANYHOW...
CLAUDE REALIZED THE BEAST WAS FIRST SIGHTED AT THE CLINIC... HE REALIZED HIS RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF THE BEAST HAD KEPT HIM FROM OBSERVING VAN STROM'S ACTIVITIES! HE KNEW VAN STROM WAS RESPONSIBLE!

ONCE INSIDE, MARTYSH SAW A DIM LIGHT IN THE LABORATORY... HE HEARD VOICES...
MARTYSH IS ON TO US, FATHER! WE'D BETTER LEAVE THE CITY TONIGHT! HE'S BOUND TO CATCH UP WITH YOU SOONER OR LATER!
HUMM... VAN STROM AND HIS SON ARE HERE!

QUICKLY LET'S... MARTYSH! WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!
HANS OPENED THE DOOR AND WAS SURPRISED TO FIND CLAUDE MARTYSH WAITING TO TAKE HIM PRISONER...

SNORT! GYNK! SNORT!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, BOY!
OOF!

THE INSPECTOR DIDN'T WAIT! HE HAD TO KILL THE MONSTER!
BLAM BLAM BAM

GYNKKAHHAM!
THE LEAD MESSENGERS OF DEATH PIERCED THE MONSTER'S HEART AND LUNGS! THE HARMLESS BEAST DIED BECAUSE IT TRIED TO PROTECT THE BOY... HANS!

¡SOB!¿ YOU FOOL! YOU WITLESS FOOL! ¡SOB! SOB¿ HE WAS HARMLESS! YOU WANTED MY FATHER... WELL, YOU FOUND HIM! YOU'VE JUST KILLED HIM! YOU WOULDN'T LET HIM EXPERIMENT ON CADAVERS... SO HE EXPERIMENTED ON HIS OWN BODY! ¡SOB! SOB¿ THIS MONSTER IS HENRY VAN STROM! SO GO NOW! LEAVE US ALONE! YOU'VE KILLED HENRY VAN STROM!

...M-MONSTER... HENRY... S-SAME PERSON... GOD!
NOOOO!
AHHH...

AHHHAAHHA... HA! HA! HEH! HEH!
CLAUDE'S MIND COULDN'T ACCEPT WHAT HE KNEW MUST BE TRUE! THE PRESSURE WAS TOO GREAT! HE WENT STARK RAVING MAD!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, FATHER... YOU CAN COME OUT NOW..
"THE TRUTH WASN'T THE TRUTH! MADMAN CLAUDE MARTYSH WAS THE LOSER OF THE FINAL COMPETITION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HENRY VAN STROM!"
YOU ARE A MARVELOUS ACTOR, HANS...
IT WAS YOUR PLAN, FATHER ...YOU KNEW MARTYSH WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BEAST AND US...
YES, BUT I DIDN'T PLAN ON HIS MIND SNAPPING! IT'S TOO BAD! I WANTED TO SCARE HIM AWAY... NOT DRIVE HIM INSANE! HE REALLY LEFT US NO OTHER COURSE OF ACTION! HE WOULD HAVE KEPT AFTER US UNTIL HE MARCHED US TO THE GALLOWS! WE HAD OURSELVES TO THINK OF.. AS WELL AS OUR WORK! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE TO A NEW PLACE AND BUILD A NEW LAB... BUT WE HAVE TIME!
WHAT ABOUT MARTYSH AND THE MONSTER?
MARTYSH WILL BE CARED FOR... PERHAPS SOMEDAY... SOMEONE WILL EXPERIMENT WITH THE HUMAN MIND AND BE ABLE TO CURE HIM! THE MONSTER? HE DID FUNCTION VERY WELL! WE'LL ARTIFICIALLY CREATE A DOZEN MORE LIKE HIM... WHEN OUR NEW LAB IS SET UP!
HA HA HA
HA! HA! HA!
THE END

THEY SAY THAT MERRIE OLDE ENGLANDE HAS MORE WITCHES, GHOSTS, AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL BEINGS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY ON EARTH BUT THE POLICE OF THE SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE KNEW ONE THING.... IT HADN'T BEEN A GHOST WHO ACCOSTED THE STRANGER ON THE MARSH ROAD AND PRACTICALLY TORE HIM APART!
I'LL KILL YOU!
WHO PROWLS THE NIGHT
TAKE MY PURSE, TAKE..... AAAAGGHHH!
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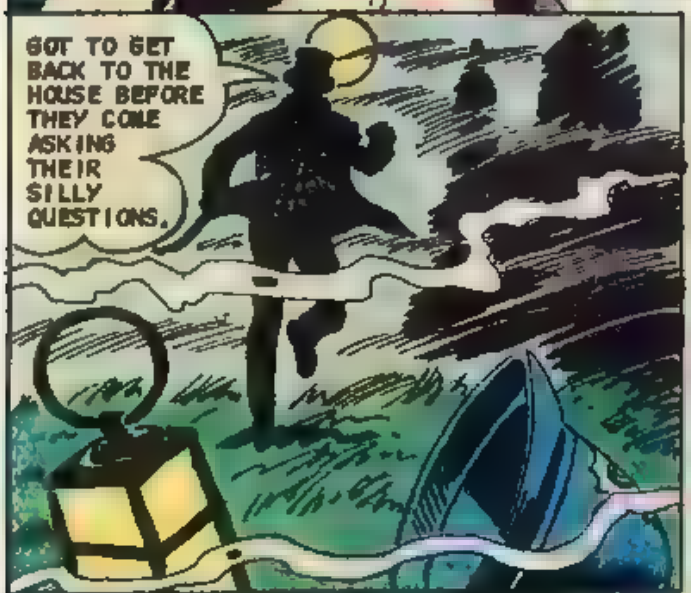

AND, SINCE THE KITTERING HOUSE WAS BUT A QUARTER MILE AWAY, THE POLICE DID COME LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER....

...COME IN, CONSTABLE. HAVE A GLASS OF PORT AGAINST THE NIGHT CHILL AND TELL ME HOW I MAY HELP YOU.
THERE'S BEEN A MURDER, SQUIRE KITTERING. ALONG THE MARSH ROAD TO THE SEA. WE WONDERED IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HEARD AN OUTCRY.
2

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LIKE EVERYONE IN WESTFORDSHIRE, SQUIRE KITTERING, I'M AWARE OF THE BURDEN YOU BEAR, SIR. WAS HE...?
YOU MEAN MY INSANE BROTHER? WALTER HAS NOT SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE CELLAR IN FIFTEEN YEARS!
I'D SHOOT THE MADMAN MYSELF IF HE BECAME A DANGER TO THE COMMUNITY, CONSTABLE. TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.... WALTER HAS NOT BEEN IN THE MARSHES.
THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WOULD WANT ME TO CONFIRM THIS PERSONALLY, SQUIRE.
VERY WELL. COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.
BLAST YOU, BROTHER. WHAT EVIL ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
YOU HEAR? HE RANTS LIKE THIS DAY AND NIGHT!
LOOK OUT, SQUIRE!
I'LL KILL YOU, NORMAN...SOME DAY I'LL GET REVENGE!
HAVE CARE, WALTER. YOUR LIFE IN THIS DUNGEON IS SHEER MISERY...BUT IT IS A LITTLE BETTER THAN NO LIFE AT ALL!
3

THERE'S MUD ON THIS FLOOR, SQUIRE KITTERING. HOW DID IT GET HERE IF YOUR BROTHER HAS NOT BEEN IN THE MARSHES?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN BY THE SERVANTS, CONSTABLE. NOW, REALLY... IT'S LATE. I THINK YOU BETTER LEAVE.
CHIEF CONSTABLE GRYFFING MAY HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, SQUIRE.
HE MUST OBTAIN A WARRANT IF HE COMES TO THIS HOUSE, CONSTABLE.
NORMAN, YOU FIEND, COME DOWN HERE!
SQUIRE NORMAN KITTERING, OWNER OF FARMS AND INDUSTRIES, HAD TOO MUCH INFLUENCE TO BE DIRECTLY QUESTIONED BUT....
YOU HAVE FOUR MEN, CONSTABLE. KEEP WATCH ALL NIGHT. IF THE MADMAN COMES FORTH, FOLLOW HIM...
...AND IF HE ATTACKS ANYONE, TAKE HIM! USE WHATEVER FORCE IS NEEDED. THE FIEND WILL PROBABLY SPEND HIS LIFE IN A MAD-HOUSE ANYHOW.

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THE BLACK MOOD IS UPON ME. I WILL VENTURE FORTH TONIGHT.
MOST TRAVELERS AVOID THE MARSHES AT NIGHT WHICH LEAVES LITTLE CHOICE... THE POLICE WATCHING THE HOUSE.
THE POLICE, WELL TRAINED, DUTIFUL MEN, WATCHED THE ROADS... THE HOUSE ...AND BRAVELY STOOD THEIR GROUND IN A GROUND FOG THAT DISTORTED NORMAL SHAPES INTO MONSTROUS CREATURES.
'OO'S THERE? IS THAT YOU, SMITH?
IT'S A RUDDY BUSH.
THE BUSH MOVED! IT AIN'T A... DEAR GOD!
AAAAAGGH
YOU WERE SO CERTAIN, WEREN'T YOU? WELL, THEY'LL KNOW NOW, WON'T THEY... EVERYONE WILL KNOW!
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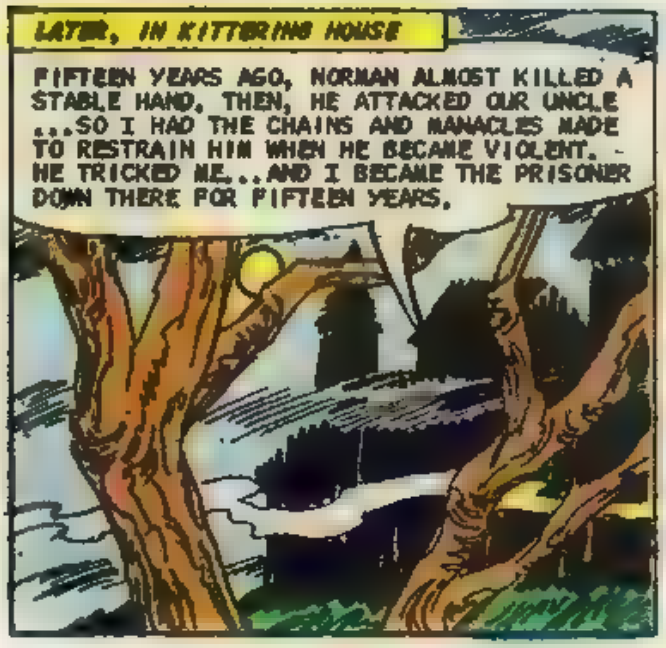
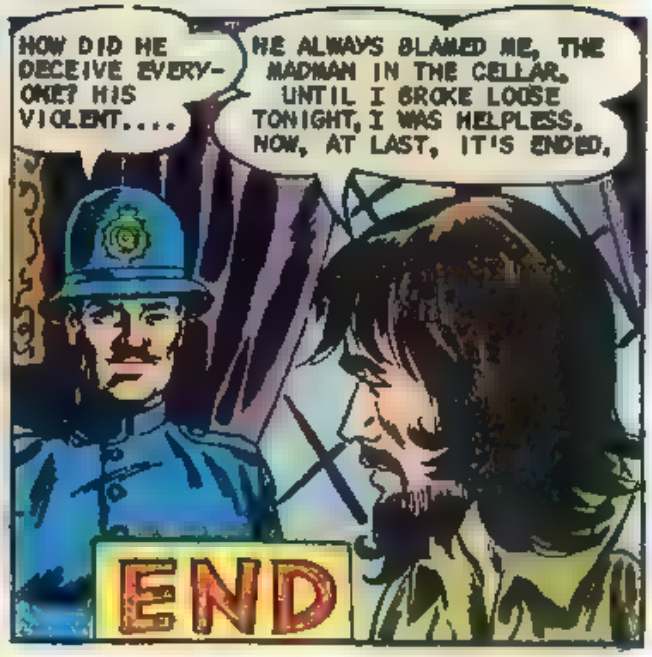
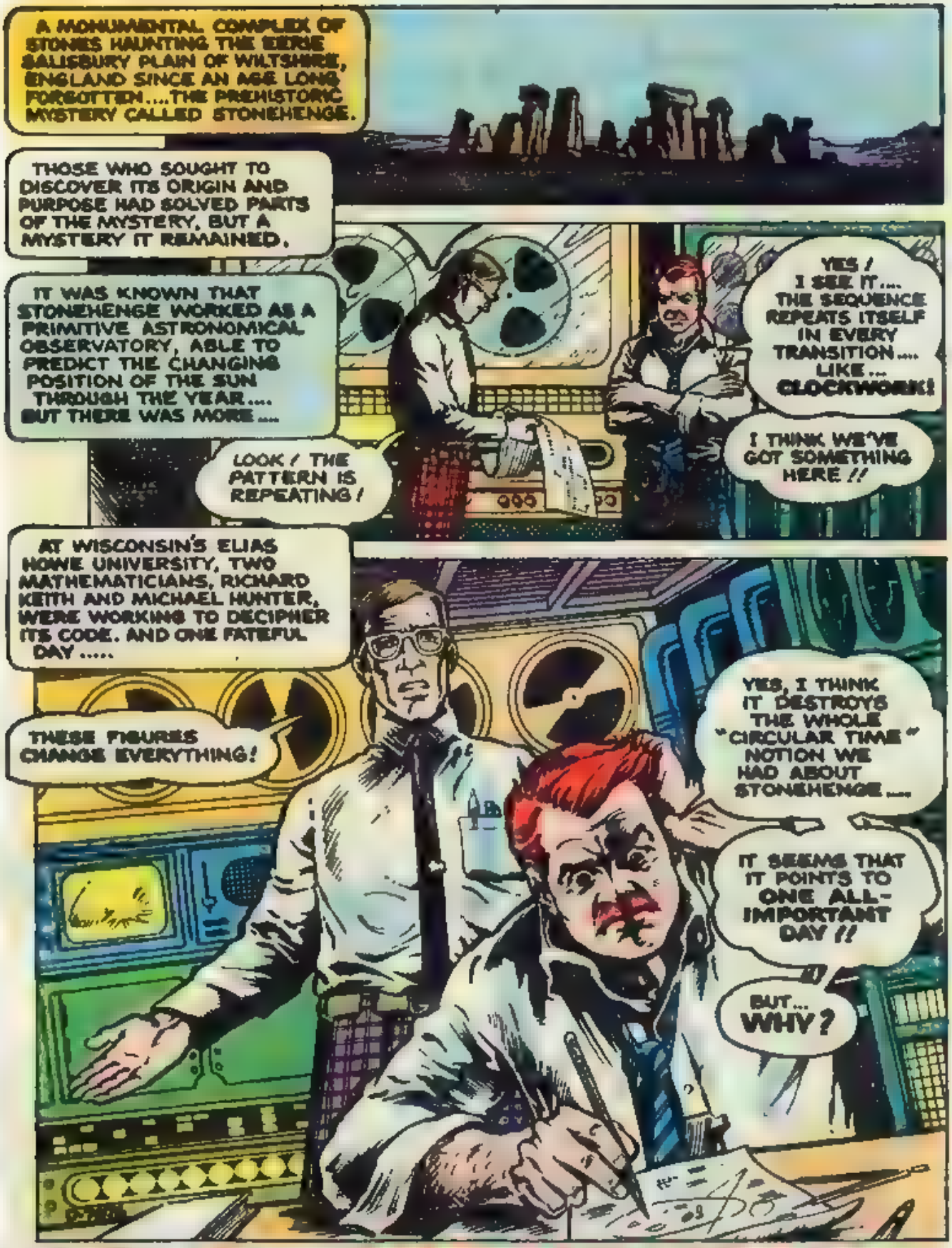
LET HIM GO, YOU MANIAC!
NEVER! HE SHALL DIE....
...AND YOU SHALL HANG FOR IT, YOU SIMPLE FOOL!
FOOL I MAY BE BUT I AM NOT MAD LIKE YOU!
WHEN WALTER KITTERING STRUCK, THERE WAS YEARS OF ANGER IN THE BLOW! AND NORMAN KITTERING FELL UNCONSCIOUS.
'ERE, WHAT'S 'APPENING 'ERE?
THE MURDERER ATTACKED ME, SMITH, BUT WALTER KITTERING SAVED MY LIFE. HE'S THE SANE ONE...SQUIRE NORMAN KITTERING IS THE MAD MURDERER!
SPLAT

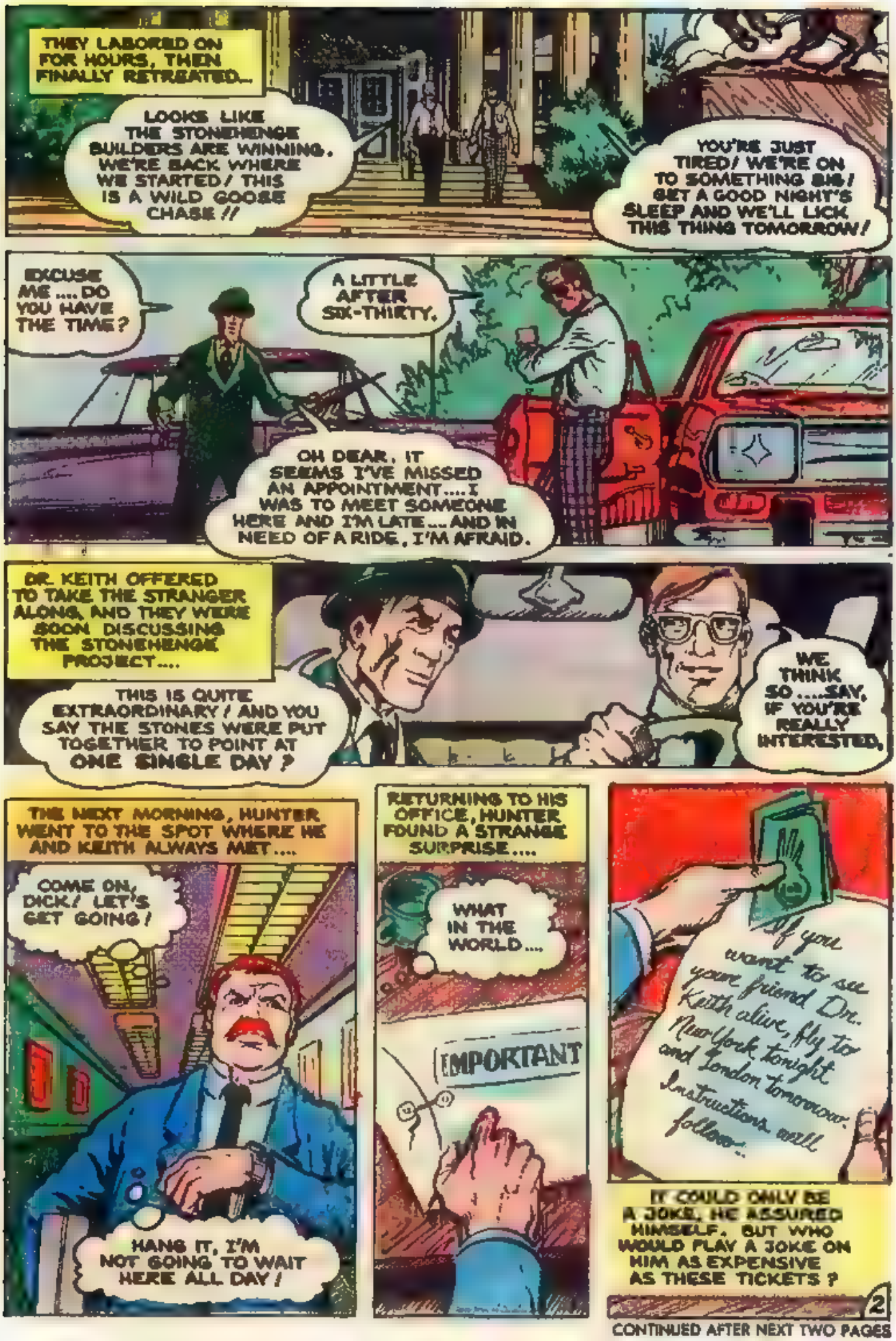

LATER, IN KITTERING HOUSE
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, NORMAN ALMOST KILLED A STABLE HAND. THEN, HE ATTACKED OUR UNCLE ...SO I HAD THE CHAINS AND MANACLES MADE TO RESTRAIN HIM WHEN HE BECAME VIOLENT. HE TRICKED ME...AND I BECAME THE PRISONER DOWN THERE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.


HOW DID HE DECEIVE EVERY-ONE? HIS VIOLENT....
HE ALWAYS BLAMED ME, THE MADMAN IN THE CELLAR. UNTIL I BROKE LOOSE TONIGHT, I WAS HELPLESS. NOW, AT LAST, IT'S ENDED.
END


A MONUMENTAL COMPLEX OF STONES HAUNTING THE EERIE SALISBURY PLAIN OF WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND SINCE AN AGE LONG FORGOTTEN....THE PREHISTORIC MYSTERY CALLED STONEHENGE.
THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO DISCOVER ITS ORIGIN AND PURPOSE HAD SOLVED PARTS OF THE MYSTERY, BUT A MYSTERY IT REMAINED.
IT WAS KNOWN THAT STONEHENGE WORKED AS A PRIMITIVE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY, ABLE TO PREDICT THE CHANGING POSITION OF THE SUN THROUGH THE YEAR.... BUT THERE WAS MORE....
LOOK! THE PATTERN IS REPEATING!
YES! I SEE IT.... THE SEQUENCE REPEATS ITSELF IN EVERY TRANSITION.... LIKE... CLOCKWORK!
I THINK WE'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE!!
AT WISCONSIN'S ELIAS HOWE UNIVERSITY, TWO MATHEMATICIANS, RICHARD KEITH AND MICHAEL HUNTER, WERE WORKING TO DECIPHER ITS CODE. AND ONE FATEFUL DAY.....
THESE FIGURES CHANGE EVERYTHING!
YES, I THINK IT DESTROYS THE WHOLE "CIRCULAR TIME" NOTION WE HAD ABOUT STONEHENGE....
IT SEEMS THAT IT POINTS TO ONE ALL-IMPORTANT DAY!!
BUT... WHY?

DAWN AT STONEHENGE

EDITOR: G. WILDMAN • WRITER: TOM HIMES • ARTIST: ZECK


THEY LABORED ON FOR HOURS, THEN FINALLY RETREATED...
LOOKS LIKE THE STONEHENGE BUILDERS ARE WINNING. WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED / THIS IS A WILD GOOSE CHASE //
YOU'RE JUST TIRED / WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING BIG / GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND WE'LL LICK THIS THING TOMORROW /
EXCUSE ME .... DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?
A LITTLE AFTER SIX-THIRTY.
OH DEAR, IT SEEMS I'VE MISSED AN APPOINTMENT.... I WAS TO MEET SOMEONE HERE AND I'M LATE ... AND IN NEED OF A RIDE, I'M AFRAID.
DR. KEITH OFFERED TO TAKE THE STRANGER ALONG, AND THEY WERE SOON DISCUSSING THE STONEHENGE PROJECT....
THIS IS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY / AND YOU SAY THE STONES WERE PUT TOGETHER TO POINT AT ONE SINGLE DAY ?
WE THINK SO .....SAY, IF YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED,
THE NEXT MORNING, HUNTER WENT TO THE SPOT WHERE HE AND KEITH ALWAYS MET....
COME ON, DICK / LET'S GET GOING /
HANG IT, I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT HERE ALL DAY /
RETURNING TO HIS OFFICE, HUNTER FOUND A STRANGE SURPRISE....
WHAT IN THE WORLD....
IMPORTANT
If you want to see your friend Dr. Keith alive, fly to New York tonight and London tomorrow. Instructions will follow.
IT COULD ONLY BE A JOKE, HE ASSURED HIMSELF. BUT WHO WOULD PLAY A JOKE ON HIM AS EXPENSIVE AS THESE TICKETS ?
2
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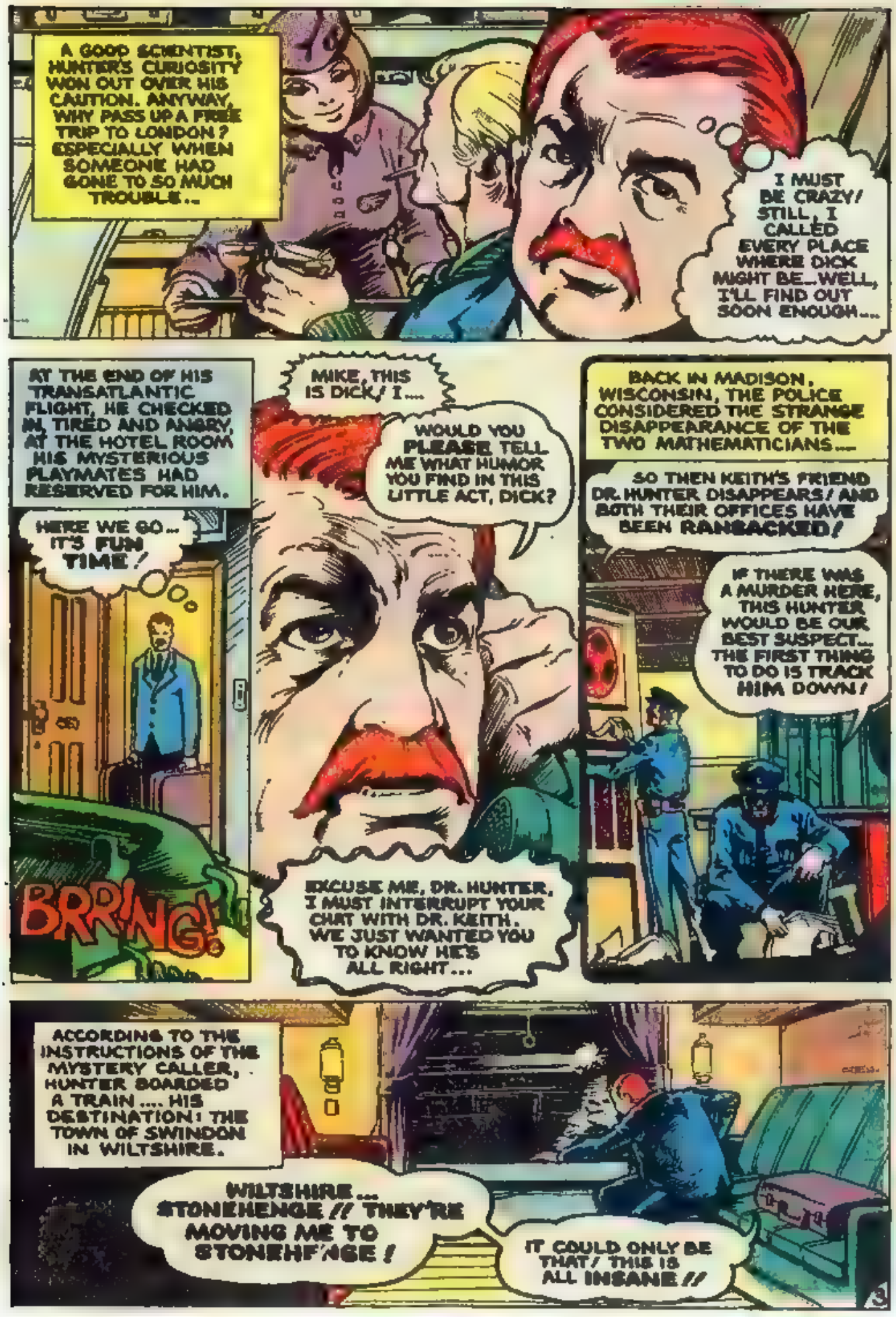
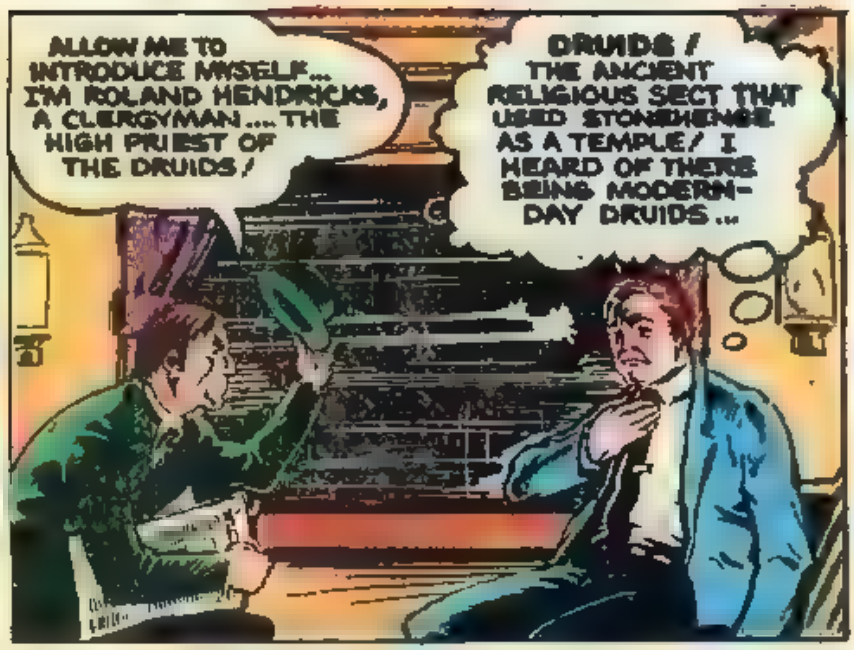
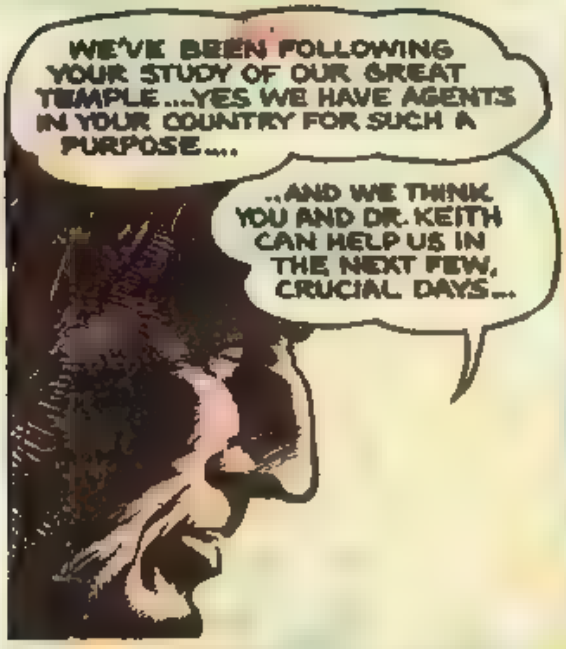
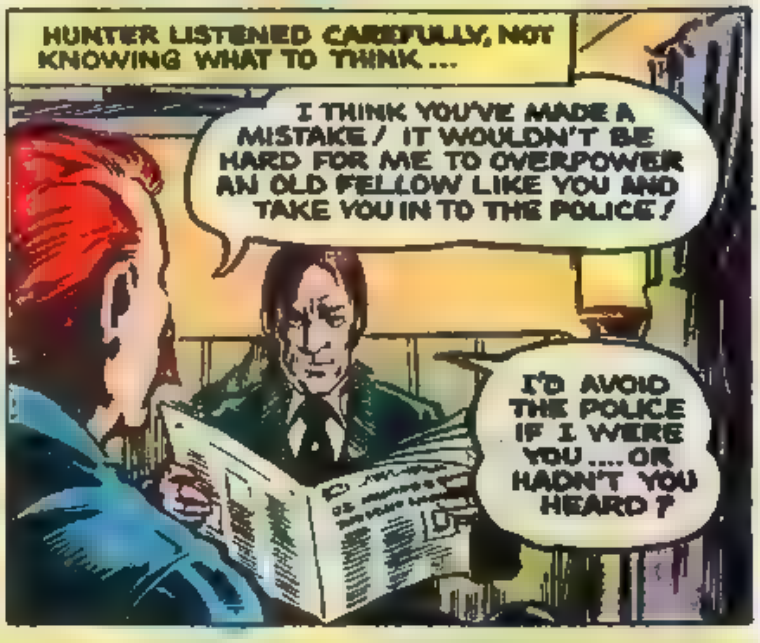
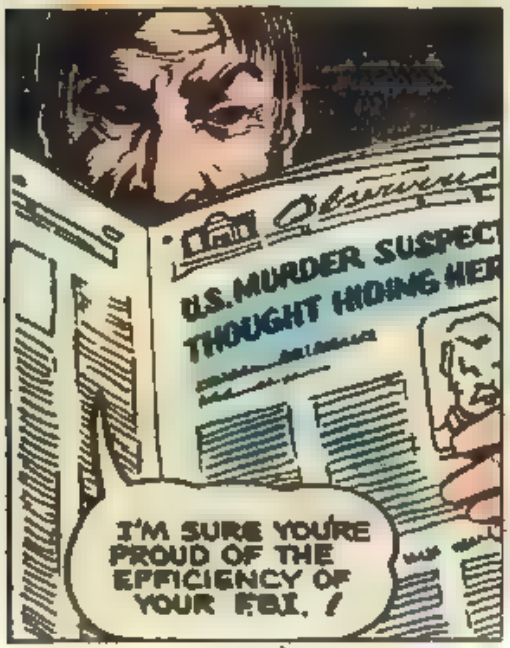

A GOOD SCIENTIST, HUNTER'S CURIOSITY WON OUT OVER HIS CAUTION. ANYWAY, WHY PASS UP A FREE TRIP TO LONDON? ESPECIALLY WHEN SOMEONE HAD GONE TO SO MUCH TROUBLE...
I MUST BE CRAZY! STILL, I CALLED EVERY PLACE WHERE DICK MIGHT BE...WELL, I'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH...
AT THE END OF HIS TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT, HE CHECKED IN, TIRED AND ANGRY, AT THE HOTEL ROOM HIS MYSTERIOUS PLAYMATES HAD RESERVED FOR HIM.
HERE WE GO... IT'S FUN TIME!
BRRING!
MIKE, THIS IS DICK! I....
WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT HUMOR YOU FIND IN THIS LITTLE ACT, DICK?
EXCUSE ME, DR. HUNTER, I MUST INTERRUPT YOUR CHAT WITH DR. KEITH. WE JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HE'S ALL RIGHT...
BACK IN MADISON, WISCONSIN, THE POLICE CONSIDERED THE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO MATHEMATICIANS....
SO THEN KEITH'S FRIEND DR. HUNTER DISAPPEARS! AND BOTH THEIR OFFICES HAVE BEEN RANSACKED!
IF THERE WAS A MURDER HERE, THIS HUNTER WOULD BE OUR BEST SUSPECT... THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TRACK HIM DOWN!
ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MYSTERY CALLER, HUNTER BOARDED A TRAIN.... HIS DESTINATION: THE TOWN OF SWINDON IN WILTSHIRE.
WILTSHIRE... STONEHENGE!! THEY'RE MOVING ME TO STONEHENGE!
IT COULD ONLY BE THAT! THIS IS ALL INSANE!!
3

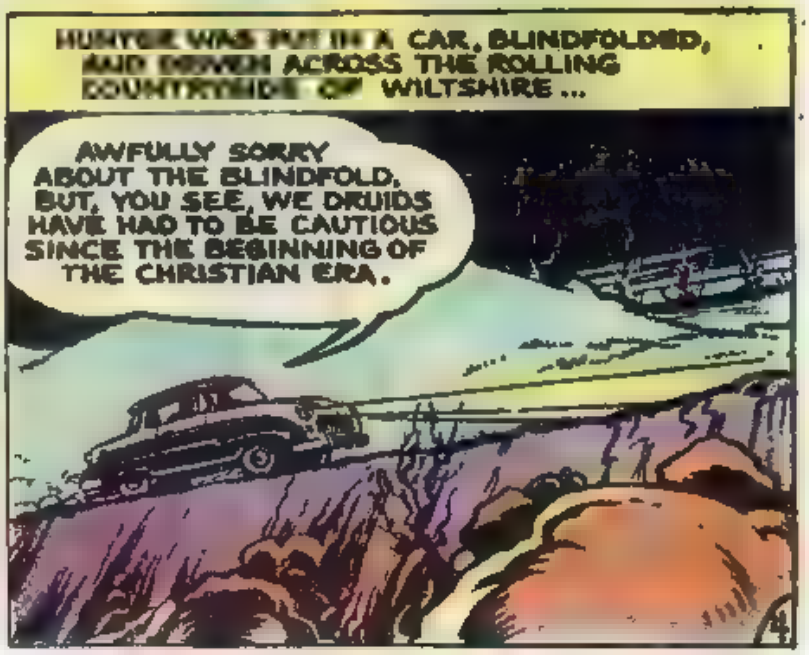
YES, DR. HUNTER, WE ARE GOING TO STONEHENGE. BUT IT'S NOT INSANE AT ALL!


ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M ROLAND HENDRICKS, A CLERGYMAN.... THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE DRUIDS!
DRUIDS! THE ANCIENT RELIGIOUS SECT THAT USED STONEHENGE AS A TEMPLE! I HEARD OF THERE BEING MODERN-DAY DRUIDS...

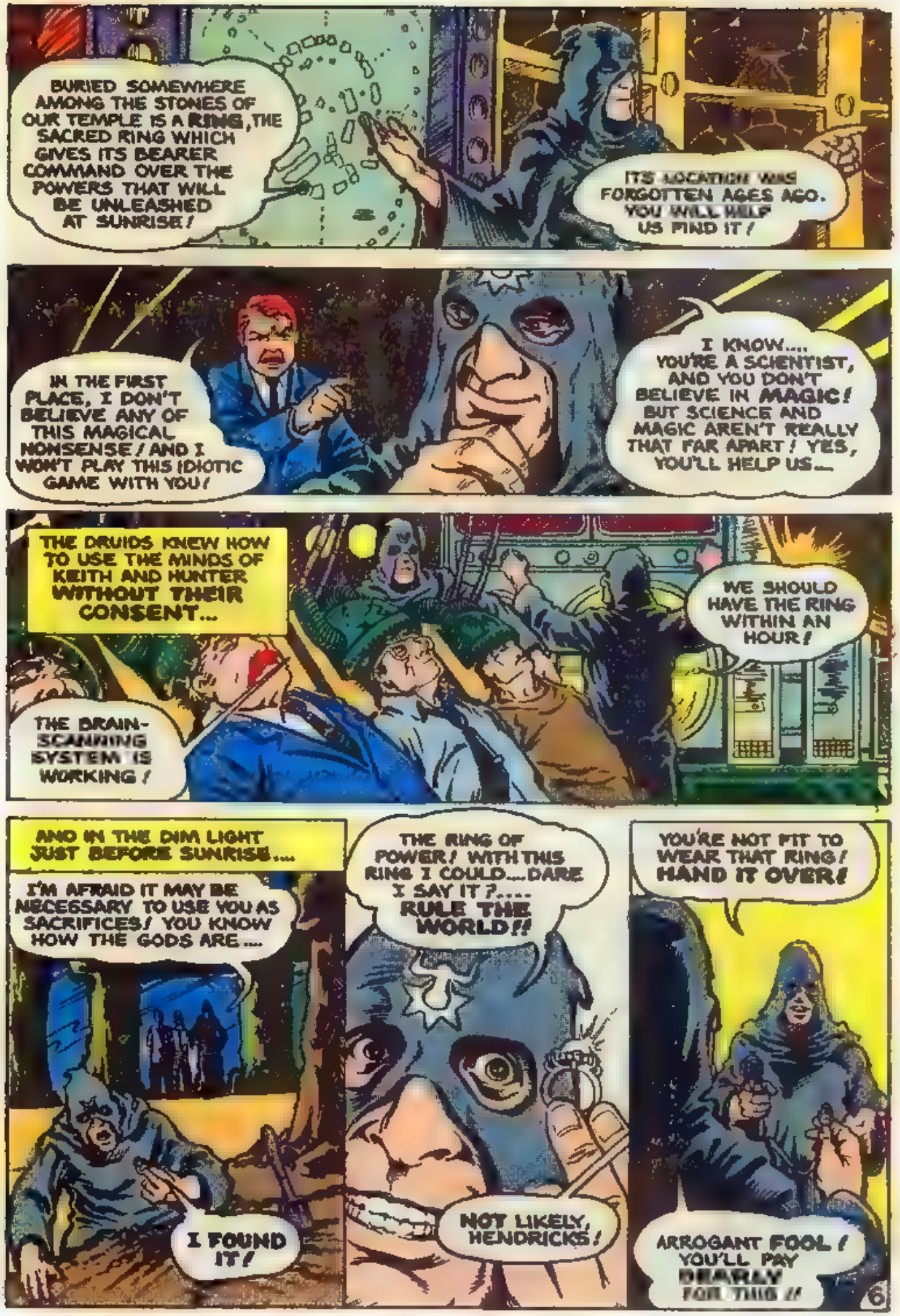

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR STUDY OF OUR GREAT TEMPLE....YES WE HAVE AGENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY FOR SUCH A PURPOSE....
...AND WE THINK YOU AND DR. KEITH CAN HELP US IN THE NEXT FEW, CRUCIAL DAYS...


HUNTER LISTENED CAREFULLY, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO THINK...
I THINK YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE! IT WOULDN'T BE HARD FOR ME TO OVERPOWER AN OLD FELLOW LIKE YOU AND TAKE YOU IN TO THE POLICE!
I'D AVOID THE POLICE IF I WERE YOU.... OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?


U.S. MURDER SUSPECT THOUGHT HIDING HER
I'M SURE YOU'RE PROUD OF THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR F.B.I.!


HUNTER WAS PUT IN A CAR, BLINDFOLDED, AND DRIVEN ACROSS THE ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE OF WILTSHIRE...
AWFULLY SORRY ABOUT THE BLINDFOLD, BUT, YOU SEE, WE DRUIDS HAVE HAD TO BE CAUTIOUS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

AND WHEN THE BLINDFOLD WAS REMOVED...
WE'D BETTER GIVE YOU BACK THE USE OF YOUR EYES.... SOME TRICKY STEPS TO WATCH OUT FOR HERE!
AN OAK FOREST....THE KIND THE ANCIENT DRUIDS HELD THEIR RITES IN!
THEY CRAWLED THROUGH THE CAVE AND WALKED DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS. THEN....
YOU SEE, WE'RE NOT SO OLD-FASHIONED AS YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS.... BUT IT'S TOO ABSURD!
MIKE! MIKE! OVER HERE!
DICK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
COULD BE BETTER. YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THEY'RE DOING DOWN HERE! THEY'RE ALL CRAZY!
DR. HUNTER, YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HERE TO AID US IN THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD! TOMORROW MORNING, THE LONG SLEEP OF STONEHENGE WILL END!
THE ALL-IMPORTANT DAY OUR CALCULATIONS POINTED TO! BUT THE COINCIDENCE IS IMPOSSIBLE! TO THINK THAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR ONE DAY OUT OF CENTURIES AND IT WAS LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY!! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
HA HA HA! NO COINCIDENCE AT ALL! YOU SEE, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR US ALL THIS TIME! THE FOUNDATION THAT GAVE YOU THE MONEY FOR YOUR RESEARCH, THE PEOPLE WHO GOT YOU TO WORK ON THE STONEHENGE PROJECT, ...THEY WERE OUR AGENTS!
ACTUALLY, OUR MATHEMATICIANS FOUND THE SUPREME DAY LONG AGO! WE WANT YOU FOR ANOTHER 30B ....
5


BURIED SOMEWHERE AMONG THE STONES OF OUR TEMPLE IS A RING, THE SACRED RING WHICH GIVES ITS BEARER COMMAND OVER THE POWERS THAT WILL BE UNLEASHED AT SUNRISE!
ITS LOCATION WAS FORGOTTEN AGES AGO. YOU WILL HELP US FIND IT!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS MAGICAL NONSENSE! AND I WON'T PLAY THIS IDIOTIC GAME WITH YOU!
I KNOW.... YOU'RE A SCIENTIST, AND YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC! BUT SCIENCE AND MAGIC AREN'T REALLY THAT FAR APART! YES, YOU'LL HELP US...
THE DRUIDS KNEW HOW TO USE THE MINDS OF KEITH AND HUNTER WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT...
WE SHOULD HAVE THE RING WITHIN AN HOUR!
THE BRAIN-SCANNING SYSTEM IS WORKING!
AND IN THE DIM LIGHT JUST BEFORE SUNRISE....
I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO USE YOU AS SACRIFICES! YOU KNOW HOW THE GODS ARE....
I FOUND IT!
THE RING OF POWER! WITH THIS RING I COULD.... DARE I SAY IT?.... RULE THE WORLD!!
NOT LIKELY, HENDRICKS!
YOU'RE NOT FIT TO WEAR THAT RING! HAND IT OVER!
ARROGANT FOOL! YOU'LL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS!!
6

THERE WAS DISSENT AMONG THE DRUIDS AS TO WHO SHOULD WEAR THE RING. A BATTLE ERUPTED.
THEY DIDNT NOTICE THAT THE SUN WAS RISING....
RRRRRRUUMMMBBBLLLEEE
LOOK!
THE LONG SLEEP WAS OVER!
THE RING! WHERE'S THE RING!!
FIND IT... OR WE'RE DOOMED!
WITHOUT A MASTER, THE CREATURES BLINDLY ATTACKED...
AAAAIIIEE
AAAI
WHEN THEY WERE FINISHED, THEY FLEW OFF, WITHOUT DESTINATION OR MISSION, FILLED WITH MINDLESS WRATH....
7

THE GUARDIANS OF THE COUNTRY'S SKIES RESPONDED TO A ROUTINE U.F.O. REPORT...
I HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE U.F.O.'s..... CAN'T IDENTIFY YET .....WAIT.....THEY SEEM TO BE....SEEM TO BE.....

THE PILOT REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHAT HE SAW, BUT INSTINCT MOVED HIS HAND....
THAT MISSILE DIDN'T EVEN SLOW IT DOWN!
BWAM!

KEITH AND HUNTER HAD CONSIDERED EVERY POSSIBLE PURPOSE FOR BUILDING STONEHENGE....EXCEPT AS COCOONS!
AREN'T YOU GLAD I TOLD YOU TO PLAY DEAD?
THIS SACRIFICIAL KNIFE SURE CAME IN HANDY!

HERE IT IS! THIS HAD BETTER WORK....

DESTROY YOURSELVES!

WITH TOTAL OBEDIENCE, THE CREATURES HURLED THEMSELVES DOWN, FASTER THAN THE JET THAT HAD ATTACKED THEM.

LATER, THE SITE WAS SURROUNDED AND THE CREATURES WERE WATCHED CAUTIOUSLY THROUGH GUN SIGHTS. BUT THEY WERE DEAD....DESTROYED, PERHAPS, BY THE ONLY FORCE THAT COULD DESTROY THEM.... THEIR OWN!
END

Dear Editor:

I missed *Monster Hunters* #2 at the local newsstands and I was afraid Colonel Whiteshroud would never entertain us with his incredible tales of evil and eerie creatures roaming the Earth again. But, a few days ago, as I perused the newly arrived comics at one of the stores where I buy stuff, I found **MONSTER HUNTERS #3.**

Before I get around to telling you whether or not I liked the stories in this issue, let me say that I expected Colonel Whiteshroud to take a more active part in the stories. Perhaps yarns of his own hunts for monsters, when he was younger or even as he appears now as a narrator. Also, there are other adventurers in his Club who could tell of their own experiences.

But, just because I was disappointed in not seeing Colonel Whiteshroud in action doesn't mean I didn't enjoy the book. In fact, I thought *MH* #3 was one of the best ghost comics Charlton ever published which means one of the best in the field. Charlton has a lot of titles like *Monster Hunters* and they're all pretty great. Since you came up with artists like Tom Sutton, Joe Staton, and so on, your comics shot to the top!

Tom Sutton did "The Wakely Monster" in this book, didn't he? The only credit I could find was TFS, but even without his initials I'd be able to tell it was his work. No one, but *no one*, is as eerie as Sutton. He must have some really gross nightmares! And I believe it was Tom Sutton who did the cover. The composition is really terrific but the menacing, formless thing

threatening her was a little hard to figure out.

One of the pluses in any Charlton ghost comic is the different styles a reader finds in both story and art. The first story in the book was titled "The Dictator", written by Joe Gill and scripted by someone named *Marti*? I don't recall seeing his name on any Charlton art before. However, I enjoyed the story and got a kick out of the title when I realized at the end it probably referred to Lester, the anthropoid ape that Dr. Fields used in his experiments, teaching to communicate with the rest of the tribe. In the light of recent experiments in which it was learned that apes do have a rudimentary method of talking to each other, this story was believable.

The second yarn in *MH* #3 had a tricky ending and I enjoyed the script by Tom Tuna and Wayne Howard's art was really good. All in all, I thought it was a winner but I have another complaint!

I wish I had gotten a copy of *Monster Hunters* #2, and I wish it wasn't so hard to find other Charlton Comics on the newsstands.

Sincerely,
Glenn Beamis
Atlanta, Ga.

We're glad you found *Monster Hunters* #3, Glenn, since you enjoyed it so much. We're a lot sorrier than you are that you couldn't find #2 on your newsstand. That means your retailer only got one or two copies or didn't get any copies at all which isn't a very good way to sell a lot of comic books!

We agree with you that this was a good issue. Any comic that features a story that was illustrated *and* scripted by mighty Tom Sutton is bound to be worthwhile. "The Dictator" was an interesting story with pretty good art and Wayne Howard's work on "Belief in Vampires" was excellent.

Dear Colonel Whiteshroud:

When are you going to tell us some of the weird things you have encountered in your travels around the world? I'll bet you have had some fantastic encounters with monsters, human and subhuman, and I would like to hear about them.

Do you personally believe in ghosts, vampires, werewolves, and so on?

Some of the guys in school with me are into this ghost business pretty deep, and they swear there's plenty of proof that ghosts do exist. They showed me articles about haunted houses where chairs fly through the air, plates shatter on walls, and so forth.

Are any of these things really possible? I've read lots of ghost stories because I enjoy them, but I don't believe ghosts really exist.

Yours truly
Robert Kieslak,
Gary, Indiana

Let me begin by saying that many well educated people have investigated allegations of ghosts and supernatural visitors and could not prove they did *not* exist. For myself, I do not believe they do or do not occur. I have an open mind and I know of cases which cannot be explained. There are hideous monsters in distant corners of the world which would horrify the most skeptical non-believers. In brief, I am interested in all such stories and I try to keep an open mind on the subject.